

## A TRIBUTE TO EDGAR HAGOPIAN

**HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 18, 1997*

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a loyal and dedication citizen in my district, Edgar Hagopian. Edgar will be honored this week by the Oak Park Business and Education Alliance [OPBEA].

Hagopian is being recognized for his many contributions to the Oak Park community, especially the students of Oak Park's schools.

President of Hagopian and Sons, Inc., Edgar has been very active in the Oak Park schools and its programs. He has been a strong supporter of the district's student of the month and the middle school job shadowing programs.

A member of the Oak Park Chamber of Commerce, Hagopian has been a supporter and leading member of OPBEA since its inception in 1993.

Known for his presence in Michigan, Hagopian is also known internationally for his leadership in the worldwide Armenian community. He founded the Armenian Business Council and has served as its president. In recognition of his many generous contributions to Armenian causes, he was named the 1995 Person of the Year by Canada's Armenian Business Council.

All funds raised from the event honoring Edgar will be used by OPBEA for the Edgar Hagopian Scholarship Fund, which will provide scholarships to Oak Park graduates that have excelled in the group's Contract for Success program.

HONORING NANCY MANNERS FOR  
13 YEARS OF DISTINGUISHED  
SERVICE TO THE RESIDENTS OF  
WEST COVINA

**HON. ESTEBAN EDWARD TORRES**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 18, 1997*

Mr. TORRES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a good friend, Hon. Nancy Manners, councilmember of the city of West Covina, CA. Nancy is retiring from the West Covina City Council after 13 years of distinguished service and will be honored at a special ceremony on Wednesday, March 19, 1997.

Nancy begun her public service in 1973, when she was elected to the Covina-Valley Unified School Board. During her tenure she served as president of the San Gabriel Valley Regional Occupational Program Board. In 1984, she was elected to the West Covina City Council. Nancy was the first woman to serve on the city council and, in 1988, she became the city's first woman mayor.

While maintaining an active role on the city council, Nancy also has been a member of numerous organizations, often taking leadership roles advocating on behalf of local governments. She has been president of the Independent Cities Association, ICA Risk Management Authority, San Gabriel Valley Planning Commission, Mid-Valley Mental Health Council, and chairperson of the Los Angeles County Solid Waste Committee. Also, Nancy has

served on policy and steering committees of the National League of Cities and the California League of Cities, and other groups working on issues of local government.

She has been a resident and servant of the city of West Covina for 38 years. In addition to the many hours that she has committed to serving local residents, she has dedicated herself to numerous community and civic organizations. Currently, Nancy is serving her second term as president of the queen of the Valley Hospital's 2100 club, the board of the West Covina Rotary, and vice president of the West Covina Historical Society. She also has served as the president of the San Gabriel Valley League of Women Voters, Covina Coordinating Council, Altrusa, regional chairperson of the San Gabriel Valley Lung Association, and in 1980, she was selected to serve on the Los Angeles County Grand Jury.

Prior to serving as an elected official, Nancy was employed by the city of Covina for 16 years. In 1963, she became the first woman in southern California, and one of only a few nationwide, to achieve the post of assistant to the city manager. Because of her outstanding dedication to the community, Nancy was named 1976 Covina Citizen of the Year and 1983 West Covina Citizen of the Year.

During her children's youth, Nancy was active in their Scouting activities. She served as den mother to her son's Cub Scout, Webelos, and Boy Scout troops, and was troop leader of her daughter's Brownie and Girl Scout Troops. She taught second grade Sunday School and was a room mother and an active member of her children's Parent-Teachers Association.

Nancy received her bachelor of arts degree from the University of La Verne in 1977, and completed certificate courses in public administration from the University of Southern California in 1972. She was married to the late George Manners and has three children, Joan, Nancy, and Gene. She is also blessed with five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues here assembled to recognize my friend, Nancy Manners, a trail blazer and role model for all to emulate, on the occasion of her retirement from the West Covina City Council.

COMMEMORATION OF SANTA BARBARA  
COUNTY CHILDHOOD CANCER  
AWARENESS WEEK

**HON. WALTER H. CAPPS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 18, 1997*

Mr. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the designation of March 17 through 23 as "Childhood Cancer Awareness Week" by the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors. I would also ask that you join me in honoring the American Cancer Fund for Children for its tireless efforts to ease the suffering of children afflicted with this disease.

Each year more than 10,000 cases of childhood cancer are diagnosed, and it is the leading cause of death by disease among children in our country. Far too often the medical costs necessary for caring for these children leave families devastated financially, as well as emotionally. The American Cancer Fund for Children works in partnership with hospitals

and local governments to ease the burdens of this horrible disease. Through the partnerships it forges with local communities, the organization provides an outstanding example of how governments and nonprofit organizations can work together to help the people who need help the most.

The efforts of the American Cancer Fund for Children have lifted the spirits of children nationwide. Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me and our colleagues in recognizing the accomplishments of this fine organization, and the county of Santa Barbara, in raising childhood cancer awareness with the establishment of a Childhood Cancer Awareness Week.

SALUTE TO CHURCH WOMEN  
UNITED

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 18, 1997*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, there is no nobler calling than service to the Lord. In Brooklyn I am fortunate to have an organization, Church Women United, which has dedicated itself to spiritual and community service.

Church Women United is part of a national organization of Christian women who come together to create a viable community and serve as witnesses to their abiding faith. This year marks the 14th celebration of holding their annual Good Friday service, which includes "The Seven Last Words of Christ." The last words are delivered by seven messengers, all female. This is a unique event in which the Borough of Brooklyn takes great pride.

The group is led by Ophelia Perry who provides spiritual guidance. Church Women United provides a host of good deeds which include hospital visitation, prison ministry, summer camp scholarship, working in a women's shelter, and providing services to HIV parents. Ms. Perry is the 19th president of this organization which has over 600 members. I am proud to highlight the immense contributions of this wonderful organization.

RALPH SANTIAGO ABASCAL: A  
LAWYER'S LAWYER'S LAWYER

**HON. GEORGE MILLER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 18, 1997*

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to report sadly to the House of the passing yesterday of Ralph Santiago Abascal, one of the giants of the American legal profession, and a man I have been honored to call a close personal friend for three decades.

Both in California and throughout the Nation, among those who advocate for the poor and within the Hispanic community, among environmentalists and farm workers, welfare recipients and the malnourished, Ralph Abascal will be remembered as a man of consummate legal skill, boundless optimism and formidable intellect.

In a lifetime of advocacy for the financially destitute, the politically marginal, and the socially outcast, Ralph nevertheless displayed an expert's knowledge of the intricacies of the political world. I knew him first in Sacramento,